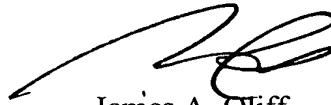


REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, the specification and claims 7, 9 and 11 are amended. No new matter is added by any of these amendments. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Gerhard W. Thielman
Registration No. 43,186

JAO:GWT/gwt

Date: November 19, 2003

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